NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.

AWinningHazard,

BY MRS. ALEXANDER.

Author of "Her Dearest Foe," "The Wooing O't," "A Crooked Path," &c., &z.

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SYNCPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

CHAPTER I.-Kate and Alicia Carey are daughters CHAPTER I.-Kate and Alicia Carey are daughters of a Dublin solicitor. who, through misfortune, leaves Ireland for Wales with a view to economy. While in Wales they meet Mr. Brett, a wealthy railway contractor, who fell in love with Kate. He induces her father to go to London to seek employ ment, saying he will introduce him to his agents, Messrs. Winks and Bouchier. This he fails to do. Kate Carey writes to Mr. Winks, unkn wn to her father, and encloses two letters in which Mr. Brett promises assistance, asking for employment for her father. She anxiously awaits a reply. but does not receive one. She, however received a letter from her cousin. Dick Travers, advising that he is in London and about to call upon them. in London and about to call upon them. CHAPTER II. — Mr. Carey and his daugh'e', ramb-

CHAPTER II.— Mr. Carey and his daugh'e", ramb-ling over the hill, come across a shooting party, among whom is Dick "Travers, Dick who has had some reverses, is now secretary to Lord Balmuir. Carey at length hears from Bouchier and Wincks, making an appointment at their office in London. Carey, accompanied by Kate, sees Mr. Wincks, and accepts a position as clerk. Wincks speaks to Kate with a view of employing her also. CHAPTER III.—Carey, settled in his situation, proves himself use'ul. Kate is surprised by a visit from Dick, and an hour passes pleasantly. Dick, on leaving, promises frequent visits. Carey, return.

on leaving, promises frequent visits. Carey, return. ing home in the evening, is much excited over a new railway scheme of his own. Kate receives a communication from Wincks, asking for her pres-ence at her house next evening.

For an instant Kate forgot that she was attired in her much worn black alpaca, and her hair was loose and untidy, and that she was still disfigured by a print apron made out of a hideous "remnant," and put on that she might perform a more thorough | see a good deal of you." dusting than could be expected from "Matilda," by which appelation the servant was known to the establishment.

see vou !'

"Thank you !" said Travers, taking her proffered hand "The same to you !"

He was a little above middle height, broadly built, but by no means fleshy. He had a well-shaped, well-set-on head, "Is Lord Balmuir nice?" asked Kate, abundantly covered by wavy dark hair, covering the teapot, jast brought back, slightly touched with grey.

He had a pleasant, but not especially and strong, the features irregular, with much the better."

tiful, impulsive girl, to be wretchedly poor.

Here the object of his thoughts returned, looking as if the whole of a summer day's sunshine had permeated her soul, beamed from her eyes, and played on her lips. She immediately began to move some books and other impedimenta from the table, and took out the sugar from their chiffonier, that indispensable piece of lodging-house furniture at the date of this "true tale."

"Where is Alicia ! asked Travers, placing a chair for his young hostess, as Matilda entered with a somewhat battered tray, and the usual appliance for afternoon tea, including a small brown teapot, its spout very visibly cracked.

"Alicia! Oh, she is out. Thank you. Matilda; be sure the water is boiling."

"That is another piece of luck, she con-tinued, as Matilda left the room to infuse the tea.

"She has an engagement to inspect the practising of a stupid rich girl, an hour and will miss you !" "I am very forry to miss her, but now

I am in town for some months I hope to

"I hope you will, but it is a frightfully long way to come, Dick. We can hardly hope to see you often, especially as you "Dick !" she cried. "I am delighted to will be busy. Have you a great deal to do ?"

"Mine is rather intermittent work, but Lord Balmuir is preparing for a vigorous campaign against sundry abuses. so I shall have rather more to do in future."

"Is Lord Balmuir nice ?" asked Kate, with a pretty cosy.

"Yes, he is a very good fellow, and a good-looking face, the expression frank sensible, useful one, but no orator, but so

PROGRESS, SATURDAY, APRIL' 4, 1896,

Travers did not reply. He was gazing pleasant hour was passed poring over the at the fire in a thoughtful fashion.

"I am sorry papa and Alicia are out; I am afraid you could not wait to see them," she continued, blushing at her consciousness that there was nothing in the way of dinner to which she could venture to invite | Coolin, the biggest man in all the county. them.

Travers looked at his watch. "No. have already overstayed my time," he said. "I have to call at one or two places in town; and there is a dinner at Lord Bal- | Kate quite forgot her gloom y anticipations | she said, as Kate finished shaking hands muir's today-a political affair. But 1 will come out again as soon as I can."

"Yes, do. And Dick. Sunday is the best time; we dine in the middle of the day on Sundays. Suppose you come and make fortune. your luncheon with us. It would do dear "Dean papa a world of good-and Alicia too." "And Kate?" said Travers, with kindly smile.

"And Kate, too-heaps of good," she returned, her lustrous, sparkling eyes meeting his fully, frankly.

"Then, of course, I shall come," he exclaimed, rising. "It is well to be a public benefactor on such easy terms. I am awfully glad Mr. Carey has found something to do. There is nothing so depressing as | convenient and suitable than another visit enforced idleness. I shall watch the de- to the office; also I can give you somewhat her discouragement to appear. velopment of this new love of yours with more time in the evening. I shall then exdeep interest, Kate: I don't think con- pect to see you to morrow or next day have had prepared for you, this is the sort From her sister Kate received much stancy is your pet virtue. Eh ?"

"I am not sure," she returned, with a saucy smile. "Ah! yes, I am true to my triends, I hope !'

"What then-is your resuscitated mummy to be nearer and dearer than a triend P'

Kate laughed. "I shall be very fond of him, I assure you, if he shows me how to make some money. I suppose you go to dances as well as to dinners, Dick ?"

"Not often-I do not dance." "What a loss. You don't know how

delightful it is to dance. I never was but a halt every day, but she often gets off at one ball-that was just before our with only an hour's work, so she stays two troubles-and it was delicious ! I had hours on Thursday, and I am so sorry she | such nice partners. I was quite in love with them all."

"Ah! my sweet cousin, there is safety in | about her handsome sister. "I'm sure a multitude. Now I must say good-bye till Sunday; but if you or your father happen to want me in the meantime, you have my address.

"Yes, Dick, I have it written down Well, good-bye, and you will be sure to come on Sunday ?"

"Without fail," returned Travers, smiling down into the earnest eyes uplitted to his. "Good-bye, my dear cousin !' And he was gone.

Kate put the cups and saucers on the battered tray and rang for Matilda. When she disappeared with it Kate walked to the window. and stood looking out on the bushes and trees, which were just beginning to show the first faint flush of green, but

It would be better so, for she could not

her and hers as bores to whom some degree

Pride had a larger share in Kate Carev's

somewhat complex nature than casual ac-

quaintances, who were attracted by the

bright caressing manner which was natural

"Why, it is past six! What can have

not exhaust all the good things of life.

But oh, how nice he is. He is really much

better looking than many who are thought

handsome men. There is something so

be impossible if it were."

that Travers had called.

of cousinly observance was due.

map and listening to their father's descrip :ion of the country, where he used to go most English of their class, expected the duck-shooting. "God be with long ago ! when I used to same brogue and pronunciation from all Irish people be they peasants or peers.

be staying with old O'Donnell, of Rath Something in her frack, fearless face and simple courteous manner appealed to Miss Ah ! life was worth living then !" and he Winck's exceedingly Saxon nature, and branched off into various anecdotes of his her preconceived notion of a designing adventures in the blessed days of youth. minx began to fade slowly. His daughters listened appreciatively, and "You had better take off your cloak."

and reflections of a couple of hours before. | with Wincks, though she did not offer her Finally the last post brought Kate a letter | own. which sent her to bed with an invigorating "Thank you, I will," and Kate removed

impression that she was on the highroad to and threw it over a chair. "Sit down, Miss Carey," said Wincks, "Dear Madam,"-"Dear Madam," reas usual averse to lose any time, and placpeated Kate, "that makes me feel at least ing a chair beside his own. He began to a hundred." "Reverting to our conversa- unfold the papers before him. One was still be in the same mind I shall be happy one big "This Indenture" at the top and to give you further information on the sub- dotted with "whereas" here and there and juct if you will call on me at my private a large number of conventional abbreviat or s residence, No. 17, Paragon Terrace, when the rest was blank ruled and blueish paper.

your residence is near at hand, this is more dismay. How could she ever manage to write like that? But she would not permit "This," said Mr. Wincks, "is a copy I

about 7-15 p. m.

"Yours faithfall.

"To Miss Carev. "Oakley Villas,

"I declare that little man is a real darling," cried Kate, her eyes sparkling as she finished reading this epistle aloud. "I be-

gan to fear he had forgotten me." "Not he," said Carey, holding out his hand for the letter. "It's not every day but we'll see." he sees a girl at all, let alone a girl like

"Your own writing is firm and well my Katey. formed for a woman's," returned Wincks. "It will be nice for you to do something, dear, and something quietly at home !" ex-claimed A icia, who had a motherly anxiety "I rather think you may be able to adopt this style. I must warn you that the pay is not large, and I can give no more than the customary price, though you are not an though people talk about 'filthy lucre,'' it's

ordinary sci ivener." delightful to touch the lucre one earns. I am always proud of myself when my payday comes round. I only wish I had another pupil or two."

"Ab, they'll come, for you deserve luck if it's luck to come down to take pay from am. I will do my best to imitate this, and ignorant money-grabbers," exclaimed Carey. "Get away to your bed's darlin's, I'll mate out of the state of th I'll put out the gas and see to the fire."

returned Winks. CHAPTER IV .-- A GREAT UNDERTAKING. Kate rolled up the "example" and the Kate Carey was exceedingly jubilant eopying paper. Miss Winks silently rose.

during the next day, even a little proud of found a wrapper, and handed it to her. herself for having turned the flink of her unacceptable admirer. She felt on the Kate considered herself dismissed.

high road to earning something splendidsaid. "You have made me quite happy." | they well new that their landlady was more

writing come and show it to me.

"I will try very hard before I give up,"

s soft and sweet, but her accent was impresses me as being honestly anxious to somewhat strange to the hearers, who, like work and improve herself."

> "H'm, perhaps so, though it is quite possible she may ask for these learned books to humour you. She is sharp, very sharp."

15

"If you mean intelligent, yes, and if her manners seem not quite what you approve, you must remember that she is not Eng-

"Ob, that is easily seen ! Still you may be right, Samuel. I allow she has a very open countenance.'

Meanwhile Kate, looking up and down the road, perceived her father. Hastening to him, she gleefully recounted her interview with Wincks and his sister, and gave him the volume to carry.

"Bless my soul, Katey, dear, are you going to lay such a thundering weight upon tion on the subject of copying law papers apparently a page out of some legal docu- your bright brains. Faith, it will crush when you called at this office, should you ment, in a very clear, stiff writing, with them to bits, and as to the writing, well if you like to try, I am not the one to gainsay you, but in all my days I never heard of a women-let alope a slip of a girl like you -trying such cramped penmanship."

Kate gazed at the example before her in "Well, papa. I have read of some girl who did, and at any rate I am going to try.'

"And it isn't worth while doing for the miserable pay you'll get."

of paper that drafts and copies are always more sympathy. "Suppose you could written on, and," taking a little screw of make even fifteen shillings a week," she paper from his waistcoat pocket, "these said, "it would help you with your clothes, are the pens, or nips, generally used in my and we are both very shabby ! I must office. If you succeed in acquiring this kind have a new dress, and that soon, because of hand-your father can always procure I go among strangers." you such paper at any faw stationer-when

"Would it not be enchanting to pay for one's things with your own personally you have attained some similarity to this earned money." cried Kate. "I believe that dear little man is going to be lucky to said Kate, gazing earnestly at the sheat beme! I am sure there is a soft side left to fore her. "It looks so unlike my own hand, his heart, though the shell is so marvel-I am afraid I shall not succeed very soon ; lously dry and chippy. I don't like his sister so muc'i-she doesn't like me. I must make her like me though. You shall come with me the next time I go." "I don't want to go, Katey !"

Sunday was eagerly anticipated by father and daughters. Carey himself went out marketing late on Saturday afternoon, on his return from the City, having the "No. indeed !" cried Kate with a sunny usual tendency of Irishmen to undertake smile, "rather an extraordinary one, and some of the household duties usually your goodness to me is something extra- handed over to the ladies. The weather ordinary too. I cannot say how grateful I was more friendly to these Bohemians than fortune, who generally punishes those who slight her favours, and Sunday came to them clothed in all the fresh and fit ul love-"I shall expect you then this day week," lines of early spring.

After a brief tearful half-hour in the morning, the day was serene and sunny. and when the girls returned from church they found Travers talking with his host, and the cloth laid in such superior style. "I will not trespass any longer," she | that they guessed "papa" had assisted, and

my sister will be happy to receive you. As

"I am, dear madam.

"Samuel Wincks.

"Notting-hill."

bold keen, brown eyes, and large moustaches, lighter than his hair. He was well dressed-well set up-and had a distinguished air.

"And how is every one ?" he continued, letting her hand go, having looked earnestly at her in a grave critical way from head to foot.

"Every one is remarkably well," returned Kate, meeting his eyes joyously. "I should have written and told you all our our news. Only I thought you would be hear any day.'

"In point of fact I only reached London last night," he replied, acceping a some- paid you a visit in Dublin ?" what unsteady arm-chair to which she pointed.

"Indeed ! you are a dear to come so soon," exclaimed Kate, slipping off her ! time you came you had been in Africa. apron, which she suddenly remembered, That was a good long while after. Our rolling it up and throwing it into a corner. Scotch cousin, Tulloch, was with us that "Don't be ceremonious," said Travers. smiling.

"I am not, Dick, but that is too hideous. I was dusting a little you see.'

"Exactly. You have got into rather remote quarters, Kate. I wish you were a Kate. I met your father in London next, little nearer Charing Cross, and that the place were less dilapidated."

"So do I. It will be tiresome for you to come so far, but, Dick, the three rooms are only twenty-eight shillings a week, i:cluding kitchen fire, and it's nice and open above your ill-fortune one day and be -and-and-you will not mind coming all | something quite grand.' this way sometimes? You cheer my dear father. and-"

"And depress his daughter, eh ?" asked | laughing. Travers, laughing as she paused.

"Nonsense! you do me and Alsie a world of good."

"All right. Then I am bound to come. Now tell me all your news. What have whatever he was, down at Llanogwen?'

-some little good. Papa has found employment in a big London office through his introduction-1 mean letters."

"Indeed. That's good news. I suppose he is a truer man than I expected. What's the firm?'

"Bouchier, Wincks and Company."

"I have heard their names. Railway people. I am glad you sent Brett to the htabout, my sweet cos. He wasn't a or old ?" asked Travers, elevating his eyegentleman."

"How do you know ? Why do you jump to conclusions ?" cried Kate blushing.

"Do you think I have gone about the world blindfold for five and thirty years ?"

"Come, Dick, you did not begin to study life at one year old ?"

"Well, say twenty," he returned with a good-humoured laugh.

"Still the chance is that you see more than exists with those sharp eyes of yours, Dick.

"By no means. They are eyes, not mag uitying glasses !" You would like tea ?

"Yes, immensely. I haven't had a cup of tea for a month. The great ladies in Berlin are beginning to adopt the afternoon cup which cheers, etc ,-but it isn't drinkable.

"And how did you like Berlin?"

"Not particularly. I was interested, but I should not like to live there. Then the people are so abominably conceited after their triumph over the Saxons and things. "Have you been to any yet?" Austrians."

1

"Why do you think so? The power of speaking is a grand gift." "A s atesman is better without it." re-

turned Travers, stirring his tea. "He is too often carried away by the wind of his own words when he has the gift."

"Do you think so? Is there nothing of inspiration in eloquence?"

Travers shook his head. "I prefer quiet deliberate conviction to inspirationin politics at all events."

There was a short pause, when Travers, speaking as if out of his thoughts, asked, "How old were you, Kate, when I first

"I am not sure; about ten, I think. You used to tell me stories of your hunting adventure in Cashmere. Then the next He still enjoyed as good society as was to be found in England. Yes, the gulf which had opened between them was widening, year. He had come home from India for and would continue to widen. It was only his health, and was going out again. Don't natural-only inevitable. Dick was as good you remember how we used to laugh at his a fellow as ever lived, kind and true, but in accent ?" was not likely he would often care to come

"Yes; you were still almost a child, out to a remote suburban district, to bestow his attention on his impoverished relatives, and did not see you again until we met on and she must not allow herself to expect it, that Welsh hillside, and we had all come nor be unjust to Dick if their intimacy to grief in the meantime. gently and gradually died i way.

"Ah, yes," returned Kate with a sigh. "But I am quite sure, Dick, you will rise

"Thanks for your prophesy. May it be true inspiration," returned Travers,

"Another cup ?"

"No more, thank you."

to her, ever imagined. After a longer time "I have still a little bit of news to tell spent in these thoughts than she was you," resumed Kate. "I really believe aware-recalling the large comfortable that dear little Mr. Wincks will find somehome in which her early youth was spent, you done with that engineer, contractor, or thiug (not some mischief still) for my idle the kind familiar faces that surrounded her, hands to do. He is going to teach me to the pleasant easy life where no severe lines "Oh, Mr. Brett, nothing at all-I mean | write; at least he says he will think about were insisted on, and faults, loudly up it. braided for a moment, were quickly for-

"Teach you to write !" exclaimed Travers given and forgotten. How different was the world into which she had now dropped ! in great surprise.

"I mean stiff law writing, that I may Here stern necessity and reality ruled, and copy things. I was at my wits end to find every mistake brought its punishment. something to do, so I thought I might manage that, but 1 am rather disappointkept Alsie ?" said Kate, half aloud. I ed. I have not yet heard from Mr. Wir cks." must not dream here any longer. If we "What is Mr. Wincks like? Is he young must give up Cousin Dick and the kind of people he lives with, we must-that will

brows. "Oh, old. Any age. He is so dried up he might have been brought out of the Pyramids : with keen black eyes that look through and through you, and such a funny voice. It sounds as it it rasped his throat; yet I like him, and I am sorry for him. He seems to have no life-blood under his

parched skin." "Your description does not sound like

a dear little man." "Never mind. If he finds me something to do, and pays me, I shall love him." "Mercenary young person !"

"Oh, I cannot bear to feel that I contribute nothing to the State.

"I did not think you would turn out so energetic, Kate." "Ah, one never knows what necessity

may make of you.' "Then their talk flowed on easily in

various channels. "I must take you and Alicia to some of the theatres," said Travers, after they had discussed many

"I will go and ask for the tea things- I do not like to ring unnecessarily, she has at this distance! And—and," blushing they might run a branch line to a little announcement that he expected a young him about come convert that the latter turned Travers, gravely; "even it he were, pray remember I have the start of him by so much to do." Kate left the room. vividly, "you must not trouble about it." made no attempt to offer her hand, and pray remember I have the start of him by village on the north coast, where's there's person to call upon him about some copy-Travers rose, walked to the window, and "I know some managers," said Travers, only a couple or three hours' crossing to ing work. reiterating her cordial thanks departed, a good many years. I have the first claim, looked out, then turned and inspected the room. "What tragedies can be made out of £ taking away a certain amount of light and Cousin Kate." warmth with her. "Don't be a "Don't be afraid, Dick, no one shall cut "I am not quite sure that I like that you out," said Alicia. s. d. !" he said to himself. "This is a bad "It would be heavenly l" cried Kate; with Scotch coal, begad ! I wonder no one wish, was law to his s ster, who thought he young person, Samuel," said Miss Wincks. has thought of it before. It would cost a could do no wrong. "Suppose we make a drawing-room of I love the theatre, and I have not seen a play for ages." "You have had a dull time of it I sus-"We have heat a dull time of it I sus-"We have heat a dull time of it I sus-"We have heat a dull time of it I sus-"We have heat a dull time of it I sus-"We have heat a dull time of it I susthe garden and sit there for a little while. thoughtfully. Care 7. And Kate! She is changed—jes, indefinably changed, and grown, like the lilies of the field, for, by Jove, Solomon in poct." There is quite a "nice corner left, with an "Why ?" "She looks honest and straightforward unsteady rustic seat; this is part of what enough, but she is rather forward and self-assured." was a country place—when the country existed here. You can smoke your cigar all his glory was never arrayed as Nature has decked her. What will be her destiny? It's an awful business for a young, beau-It's an awful business for a young, beau-

perhaps ten or even fitteen shillings a week Kate did not see them-she was lost in thought. Her hands clasped and dropped at her new work. before her, gazing far away into the back-

It could not be so difficult to do, as all like exaggeration. ground of the past. The evening was sorts of stupid boys managed to acqui e a "I mean just for the moment. Of course drawing in, and the pale melancholy peculiar to the light of these first lengthenhour of her appointment drew near. how- cried Kate. ing days, before the chills of winter have ever, her spirits fell to zero. The probeen quite vanquished by the genial warmth spect of encountering Miss Wincks was and vitality of spring, seemed to sadden rather appalling. First, it was amazing to her. The present and the future seemed find such a creature existed. It seemed dark. It was delightful to see Cousin Dick, impossible that the Wincks she knew but she was suddenly struck with the concould belong to an ordinary family of trast between his position and her ownbrothers and sisters. He looked to her, why she could not tell. He was poor too like a separate and original creation, and comparatively poor-but he stood alone. He was not overweighted, like her dear second Winks in petticoats only drier and father and herself. He had lost his money sterner, and less friendly than the first. like themselves, but he had kept his position

This change of mental temperature, however, was carefully concealed, and after going through the form of partaking of the evening meal, Kate put on her hat and a warm red cloak of what used to be called "The Colleen Bawn" shape.

"Hadn't I better go with you, dear ?" asked her father, half rising.

Oh! no; don't disturb yourself. It is quite near-Alicia and I walked round by Paragon Place this morning just to make sure of the way, and can go quite alone." hour I'll come and walk up and down till said Kate, blushing with pleasure. endure the idea of his coming to consider vou come out.'

> "You might catch cold, papa; come into he house.'

"No, thank you! I see enough of little Wincks by daylight, begad! I don't want him by gaslight into the bargain." "Isn't he nice to you, papa ?"

"To be sure he is; as nice as his nature will let him. And why shouldn't he be! He gets the worth of his money out of me.'

Having kissed his brow Kate started with a smiling face, which grew quickly pointment; then checked her pace when spare,

The clock of a neighboring church was

ceptional punctuality. The door was soon opened by the respectable stout servant, the only member of the household who seemed to be "of

"Walk in, miss !" she said. without waiting for Kate to speak, "and please to

laugh. One could never imagine such a Kate complied, and followed the leader voice saying anything foolish or ignoble. I along a dimly lighted passage, the gas beam sure he will get on and do something ing turned down to the lowest economy point. She was ushered into the solemn yet. There is a good long stretch of life before me too, but I shall never do much. parlour, where the brother and sister sat don't think I have any ambition-only to in silence over their respective occupations; | treat." be a little independent. I am not clever. only Mr. Wincks had not retired to his arm chair. He sat legal-looking papers, a Thank God, work does not seem so odious to me as it used. At all events, I can blotter and an inkstand before him, also a "Quarterly Review," which he had apparmake the room look nice and comfortable ently taken up as light reading to pass away the time while waiting for his visitor. before Alsie and papa oome in. It seems dark and dreary. I must not let myself be weak or cowardly, nor sentimental either. "Here's the young lady," said the ser-No one's life is always dark. Life would vant, unceremoniously, and Kate, tall and graceful in her red cloak, a soft fresh color Mr. Carey was much elated on hearing after her walk in the cool night air, giving

more than ordinary brilliancy to her eyes, "I must look him up." he said, "for I came in like the embodiment of youth and have an idea-a first-rate idea, faith !-and health.

Kate, who put it under her cloak, shook nod. bright to Miss Wincks, who had not yet

possibly more, as she became a proficient | Wincks, drily. Like many of his compatriots, he shyed contemptuously anything the rent was a fortnight behind, than any

legal hand. Why shouldn't she ? As the if I tail I shall be dreadfully unhappy,"

"Is it wise to rejoice so soon." "Oh, yes, certainly ; it is wise to get what rejoicing one can, and as soon as one can out of whatever you undertake." But the disappointment after is severer," presume," returned Wincks.

"Perhaps, but then the worry is not so long drawn out. Oh," continued Kate, her fancy conjured up a droll picture of a looking round, "what quantities of books, you can never be dull with all these delightful books."

"Ahem !" began Wincks, "yes, they are a solace. Do you care for reading ?" "I love it," said Kate, and added: "I have hardly had any books since we came "Chambers" Journal our landlady lent me."

"Hem !' repeated Wincks, and his poor throat seemed very dry indeed. "If you light from within to sparkle in pleasant really value books I don't mind lending friendly talk. Travers told some droll you one occasionally, but you will find nothing light or amusing in my collection." "Very well; but in three quarters of an thing grave if you would choose it for me," respecting the disestablishment of the Irish

fear to give you too dry a volume. You dritted to his Indian experience. have slid you were rather ignorant."

"Yes, very," returned Kate, cheerfully. by endeavoring to get some idea of the to drop it. and come home; not the most constitution of your own mind. Suppose cheerful home-coming, as you may imayou try Abercrombie's work on the intellectual powers ?"

"That sounds terrible," said Kate. "I think I know pretty well what my own are, but I know very little of the world outside graver as she hurried on to keep her ap- myself; might I have a volume of history?" "Certainly; only by studying Abercromshe remembered she had plenty of time to bie you would get more to the root of the matter.

chiming a quarter past seven when she fruits of the tree of knowledge, not to dig in Bombay. He is getting on like a house about its roots.

Wincks looked at her in a sort of solemn surprise, then a queer little crooked reluctant smile slightly distended his close shut mouth. "You have given a curious turn to my idea," he said, "Suppose you try Gibbon's decline and fall of the Roman upon, but it is rather a lengthy work, and them.

ought to be read with care. "And will you lend me the first volume ?" she cried. "I will take care of it. You see I have plenty of time for reading. I

be the writing, and then Gibbons for a "I hope you will have resolution to continue it," replied Wincks. "Bess, will you be so good as to take down the

first volume!" "How nicely bound !" said Kate. will cover it up as soon as I get home," "There are many more volumes," ob-

served Miss Wincks, grimly. "What a huge book !" exclaimed Kate, "but if I read it for two hours every day I

Wincks.

"Then you are easily pleased," returned disposed to oblige "Mr. Carey," whom she considered "a real gentleman," even when other person.

"You are very good to come so early," said Alıcia, shaking hands with her cousin.

"It is such a long way." "I walked her," returned Travers, "and found it a very pleasant mode of traveling. My rooms in Mount Street are quite near the pirk, you know. I feel the want of exercise in London after the amount I have been accustomed to. And what have you girls been about since I saw you, Kate?" "I have been quite busy. After luncheon I shall show you my work. Mind, you are to tell me the whole unvarnished truth as what you think of it."

"All right. You know I never make pretty speeches. I would if I could, but they don't come to me."

The sisters had only time to take off to London, except some old volumes of their outdoor garments when the dinner wias served, and whatever the ou'side gloom o their circumstances there was sufficient stories respecting well-known public characters, and discussed the political outlook "I should like very much to read some- with his host, broke a spear with Alicia church, which she considered a most "Indeed ! it is a responsibility, and I | iniquitous measure. Then the conversation

"I had gone to Bombay with a splendid scheme of sport among the Himalayas "Perhaps it would be as well to begin when my trouble began; of course, I had gine."

> "No, faith! We are companions in misery, my boy," cried Carey. "Take a glass of wine, Dick. It wine you can call it; it's as thin as our fortunes, begad. Not what we'd name cluret in the old coutry! Hey!"

"Certainly not; but I'l stick to the beer, if you'll allow me. That is very good. By "But, dear Mr. Wincks, I want the the way, I saw Jamie Tulloch while I was on fire; he has been taken into partnership in a rather good firm, and breathes out percentage, commission, and bills of lading. He was very hospitable however. It is amazing how these Scotchmen get on. They have a particular combination of caution and daring, an instinct for money-Empire; that's a good foundation to build | making; fine fellows do; I must say I like

"They are as hard as nails," observed Carey, "and too ready to skin a flint to please me.'

"How is it," asked Kate, "that such am a good deal alone. My chief work will Irish people as we are manage to have an English cousin, and a Scotch one too ?"

"A very simple matter," cried Carey. "Travers' grandfather on the mother's side was great uncle to your blessed mother; and as for Tulloch, my grandfather's sister married an officer in a Highland regiment, and Tulloch is her grandson. He is young-

er than you, Travers." "About the same age in years, but a deuced deal older in many other things."

said Travers laughing. "It seems a confusion of grandfathers shall get through it. I read very quickly." and grandmothers to me," cried Kate. "I should try and read slowly," said "However, I am quite willing to have Dick and grandmothers to me," cried Kate. for a cousin, and Mr. Tulloch too, if he is The solid-looking book was delivered to as nice as Dick," with a smile, and a little

rang the bell at No. 17, Paragon Place, and she congratulated herself on her exhuman flesh subsisting."

pleasant and sensible in his voice and wipe your feet."

he might help me with it. Bring me the She seemed very tall and reprehensibly "Oh, no, Dick! Why, it would cost a map of Ireland, Katey, darling, as soon as